

CENAO-TS-EG

24 August 2001

SUBJ: Trip Report for 3-10 August Emerging Leaders Conference, Chicago, Illinois

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During 3-10 August 2001, I attended the Emerging Leaders Conference, held in Chicago, Illinois. This conference coincided with the Senior Leaders Conference. I spent the first few days attending a Leadership Development workshop, conducted by Dr. Nap DuFault. I spent the following days attending portions of the Senior Leaders Conference, interacting with Senior Leaders and working with my fellow Emerging Leaders on presentations that were presented the last day of the Conference.

The Leadership Development workshop was very enlightening. I learned a lot about myself as a person and as a leader, and I learned how to apply the various situational leadership styles. The most important thing I learned during this workshop is that everyone has different personalities and that as a leader, it is important to recognize these different personalities and adjust your leadership style accordingly.

Over the course of the week, I was fortunate enough to eat lunch and dinner with several of the Senior Leaders. I enjoyed the table conversations and was pleased to see how many Senior Leaders were interested in what we Emerging Leaders had to say. Many of the Senior Leaders commented that it would be extremely useful to have us attend their 'break out' sessions.

The last few days of the conference we were able to join the Senior Leaders Conference and hear General Flowers talk about the Corps Vision and Campaign Plan. I have to admit I never really knew what part I played in the overall scheme of things. However, after attending this conference and hearing General Flowers, I now understand how important it is for all of us in the Corps of Engineers to understand the Vision and Campaign Plan and how we must all do our part to help implement them. I now understand that the Vision and Campaign Plan is really focused on making the Corps a better place for people like me, working level people. I was very happy to hear how important it was to General Flowers that we recruit and retain a technically capable workforce and continually provide training to keep us up to date.

During this time we also discussed how important it is to share the Corps Story. The press is always more than willing to share our misfortunes, therefore, it is our responsibility to share our successes and to educate people as to what the Corps of Engineers is really about; a full spectrum Engineering Force of high quality, dedicated soldiers and civilians trained and ready, dedicated to public service.

The bottom line is I have come back to Norfolk District a new person. I feel empowered and energized to "Just Do It" and I am ready to share all that I have learned and be an ambassador for the Corps Vision and Campaign Plan. I will end by saying I am proud to be a part of the Army Corps of Engineers.

